

NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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February 3, 2009

Michael J. Iacopino Brennan Caron Lenehan & Iacopino 85 Brook Street Manchester, NH 03104

Re:

Application of Granite Reliable Power, LLC Site Evaluation Committee No. 2008-004

Final Report

Dear Mr. Iacopino:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a final report on the Granite Reliable Power application for the construction and operation of thirty-three wind turbines and associated facilities and roads located in central Coos County. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has a responsibility to review the project under RSA 227 C:9 as well as under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires consideration of historic preservation in the multitude of Federal actions that take place nationwide. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on Federal projects prior to implementation. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for this undertaking.

The Division continues working with the USACE and the project Applicant to identify significant historic resources and determine the effects of undertaking. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) was developed and a systematic survey of historic resources was undertaken. Granite Reliable Power has caused to be conducted a variety of studies including a Phase Ia Archaeological Survey and the submission of a Project Area Form. Additional archaeological studies were conducted and approved by the DHR. No additional archaeological work is required, unless modifications to project plans arise.

The Project Area Form identified eight properties that warranted detailed studies and Individual Forms for these potentially historic standing buildings, structures and landscapes were completed. The DHR has finalized review of these forms and considers them complete.

As of this date, the following properties have been recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the purposes of this undertaking:



Colebrook:

1594 NH Route 26

1761 NH Route 26

Panorama Clubhouse & Golf Coarse

eligible under Criterion A (history)

eligible under Criterion C (architecture)

eligible under Criteria A and C

Dixville:

2 Valley Road

3 Valley Road

eligible under Criterion A

eligible under Criterion A

Millsfield:

1372 Millsfield Pond Road

87 Pond Outlet Road

eligible under Criterion A

eligible under Criteria A and C

Odell:

Philips Pond, unnamed road

eligible under Criteria A and C

Section 106 requires the Lead Federal Agency to seek information, as appropriate, from consulting parties, and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area, and to identify issues relating to the undertaking's potential effects on historic properties. The Division understands that Granite Reliable Power has provided information to the public on behalf of the USACE regarding the consulting party process and is in the process of identifying those groups that may have an interest in historic resources in the APE. To date, no organization has applied for consulting party status.

The Applicant met with representatives of the USACE and staff of the DHR on January 27, 2009. The Applicant provided "Effect Tables" that objectively determine the effect that the project will have on the above-listed historic resources. An effect may occur when there is alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligible for the National Register as defined in Section 800.16(1). The USACE and DHR disagreed with the Applicant's initial findings and the Tables are currently being revised to reflect the following information:

Colebrook:

1594 NH Route 26

No Effect

1761 NH Route 26

No Effect

Panorama Clubhouse & Golf Coarse

undetermined, field visit to confirm finding

Dixville:

2 Valley Road

No Effect

3 Valley Road

No Effect

Millsfield:

1372 Millsfield Pond Road

87 Pond Outlet Road

undetermined, field visit to confirm finding undetermined, field visit to confirm finding

Odell:

Philips Pond, unnamed road

undetermined, field visit to confirm finding

A field visit is scheduled for the week of February 25, 2009 with both the USACE and DHR staff in attendance. Although preliminary information suggests that the project will have No Effect or No Adverse Effect on those resources listed above, it is premature for our agency to conclude that the project will not impact significant resources until the field visit has confirmed these findings.

The Division looks forward to continuing consultation with the USACE and the Applicant as part of the ongoing historic review process to identify ways to reduce impacts to historic resources. Conditions to the SEC application specific to historic resource review include finalizing the effect findings with the USACE after the field visit has occurred and developing a Memorandum of Agreement to outline a mitigation plan if Adverse Effects are determined.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

Elizabeth HMugzen

cc:

Richard Roach-USACE

Jane Murray
Evan Mulholland